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The most interesting chapters of the second book are those on "Municipal Life," showing the state of society in the scores of Roman towns scattered throughout the empire, and on "The Colleges and Plebeian Life." Here we are introduced to life among the lowly wage-earners and tradesmen so despised by the nobles, but yet living their own lives as completely as if there had been no upper classes. The most valuable element in this chapter is the detailed picture of the workmen's "Colleges," corresponding roughly to the more modern guilds and trades unions.

The third and fourth parts are devoted to a discussion of the philosophic and religious beliefs of the time.

Incidentally the book will be found of great value to the student of Roman literature, on account of its excellent recapitulations and characterizations of the literary productions of the period under discussion, which, together with the inscriptions, form the original sources of Mr. Dill's work.

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Selections from Homer's Iliad. With Introduction, Notes, a Short Homeric Grammar, and Vocabulary. By ALLEN ROGERS BENNER. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1904. Pp. xxxvi + 522. \$1.60.

The plan of Benner's *Iliad* differs from that of previous school editions in several particulars. Five books are given entire, with as much of ii as is ordinarily read; but the books are not consecutive, and they are supplemented by extensive extracts so as to give "a comprehensive view of this great epic, both in its plot and in its larger literary aspect." On the whole, the selections will commend themselves to the student of Homer. The editor takes no notice of different strata, nor is there any idea of using exclusively those selections which deal with Achilles, as in the case of Pratt and Leaf's *Story of Achilles*. In comparison with the complete *Iliad* Benner's book does give to Achilles and Patroclus a larger place in respect to number of lines, if not in point of interest; but Books ii and iii are also included, extracts giving some of the exploits of Diomedes and of Hector, and, one is glad to see, the Hector and Andromache episode.

The topics treated in the Introduction are fewer than in some of the editions in popular use, embracing little but the origin and transmission of the Greek epic, dress in the Homeric age, and armor in the Homeric age. While the discussion of these topics is quite full and satisfactory, one who is familiar with the mental equipment of the average student when he begins to read Homer can hardly feel that Homeric armor and Homeric dress are the subjects most important for an appreciative study of the *Iliad*. The Introduction contains no reference to the characteristics of epic poetry in general, or to the distinctive qualities of the Homeric epic, no suggestion concerning the influence of the Homeric poems on

later literature, and their important place in Greek education and culture, or concerning their value as a source of information about early Greek civilization, almost nothing about the Homeric age except its armor and dress, and no complete outline of the *Iliad*.

The notes on the text cite without comment a score of passages or expressions from the *Aeneid* to show Virgil's imitation of Homer, and a few from other ancient authors. Parallel passages from modern literature are extremely few, but pertinent. The explanatory notes are sufficiently full, and are well adapted to the needs of the beginner.

The work has a number of illustrations that illustrate, and a convenient vocabulary. One very commendable feature is the use of footnotes to define ἀπαξ λεγόμενα. The editor does not presuppose a familiarity with the epic dialect, but gives about fifty pages to Homeric forms and grammar, and this material is made more available by the use of bold-face type for headings and by an index.

On the whole, Mr. Benner has produced a very useful book and has carried out successfully a plan that will commend itself to many.

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The Speeches of Isaeus. With Critical and Explanatory Notes. By WILLIAM WYSE. Cambridge: University Press (New York: The Macmillan Co.), 1904. Pp. lxiv + 755. \$6 net.

An edition of Isaeus with commentary has not appeared since that of Schoemann (1831). His orations have been too little read in the classroom to create a strong demand for annotations, so that it has been necessary to seek in the pages of periodicals and works on Athenian law for the necessary explanations of difficulties. The need of an up-to-date commentary has been supplied by Mr. Wyse in the fullest measure. It would be difficult to find a more complete treatment of the language and subject-matter of any ancient writer than we have in the present volume.

The Critical Introduction contains chapters upon the "Descendants of A," the "History of A," a "Description of A," the "Corrections in A," the "Faults of A," a "Description of Q," the "Manuscripts of Dionysius of Halicarnassus" and "Editions and Subsidia." Wyse takes the view that A is to be preferred to A pr., "unless there are strong reasons for the contrary course," thus siding with Thalheim against Buermann.

Following the ordinary excerpts concerning the orator (pp. 1-5) comes the text with critical notes (pp. 6-174). The text is conservative, and admits few of the editor's own emendations, though the notes contain numerous suggestions concerning improvements in the reading. The text was printed before the appearance of Thalheim's edition (1903), but the Introduction and Notes make full use of it.

Some idea of the fulness of the commentary may be gained from the fact that